

on North Eastern States highlighting tourism products has been brought out by the Department of Tourism.

5. 10% allocation of the overall budget of the Department of Tourism for the North Eastern Region.

(c) Does not arise.

Study on safety of Mullaperiyar Dam

673. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the epicenter of the recent earthquake in Kerala is very close to Mullaperiyar Dam;

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a detailed study on the safety of the Years long old Dam in view of the frequent earthquake in that locality;

(c) whether Government would consider to constitute a panel of scientists to evolve a scientific opinion in this matter; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The epicenter of recent earthquakes in Kerala are about 50 kms from Mullaperiyar dam.

(b) to (d) As per the inspection conducted by the project authorities following the International guidelines, no damage has been reported due to recent earthquakes. At present, there is no proposal to constitute a panel of scientists to conduct any detailed study.

Closure of canals in Orissa

674. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that closure of several canals in Orissa is adversely affecting the Rabi irrigation and aggravating the drought situation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is even causing a drinking water problem in several districts of State; and